



Nine members with full standing, ten alternate members, and members of the public meet on the first Monday of each month to discuss pedestrian issues and opportunities in Austin. Twelve regular meetings were held in 2015 along with regular meetings of two subcommittees.

Full Members:

- Joe Almazan, Chair
- Heyden Black Walker, Vice-Chair
- Robert Anderson, Project Subcommittee Chair
- Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair
- Nancy Crowther
- Valerie Fruge
- Girard Kinney
- Emily Risinger
- Tom Wald

Alternate Members:

- Janet Beinke
- Julio Carillo
- Zakcq Lockrem
- Joel Meyer
- Carmen de la Morena
- Marva Overton
- Kathy Rock
- Patricia Schaub
- Michael Sledge
- Luke Urie

CITY OF AUSTIN PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Overview of the Pedestrian Advisory Council

The Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) shall advise the City of Austin on pedestrian planning, policy, design, funding, education, and enforcement efforts regarding the creation, maintenance and operation of pedestrian facilities in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable circulation for both commuting and recreation within the City of Austin. The PAC's goal is to ensure sensitivity to pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public and private projects impacting pedestrians.

History and Development

The PAC originated in 2013 when citizens convened for a summit on walkability issues. Austin participants at the summit identified the need for a local pedestrian organization, resulting in the creation of the Pedestrian Advisory Council 2013.

2015 marked the second full year of the Council's existence. It built upon relationships throughout the community and increased its policy and program focus. In late 2015 the Pedestrian Advisory Council was transitioned from the Planning and Zoning Department to the Active Transportation Program in the Transportation Department.

Staff Liaison:

Laura Dierenfield
Active Transportation Program Manager
City of Austin Transportation Department
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Get involved!

Join us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PedestrianAdvisoryCouncil

Subscribe to our Google Group for online conversations at: <http://groups.google.com/group/austin-pac>

Visit our City of Austin webpage: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pedestrian-advisory-council>

View past annual reports at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pedestrian-advisory-council>

Spotlight Achievement – Vision Zero

Significant progress was achieved toward the Pedestrian Advisory Council-initiated Vision Zero effort. City Council adopted Vision Zero as formal city policy by incorporating Vision Zero into the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. The Vision Zero Task Force produced the first traffic fatality and serious injury 'heat' maps in order to direct efforts and attention to identified problem areas. The Task Force also nearly completed the Vision Zero Action Plan to be presented to City Council.

In addition to advancing the original recommendations to pursue Vision Zero, multiple members of the Pedestrian Advisory Council have served on the Task Force since its inception. The PAC has received multiple presentations from staff and will provide comments on the Action Plan.

Vision Zero is a multi-pronged approach to traffic safety that works to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries. The Pedestrian Advisory Council began the Vision Zero effort for Austin in 2014 in response to community concerns regarding pedestrian safety. After spending months researching Vision Zero, the PAC recommended to City Council the creation of a Task Force composed of diverse transportation experts to develop an Action Plan to implement Vision Zero.

For More Information

Vision Zero Task Force: <http://austintexas.gov/visionzero>

PAC Recommendations: <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=220999>

Activities and Formal Recommendations

In 2015 the Pedestrian Advisory Council was involved in numerous local and regional initiatives affecting pedestrianism. It also made several formal recommendations. These efforts and recommendations include the following:

- **Collaboration on the Update to the Sidewalk Master Plan – Shared Streets**
The Technical Subcommittee contributed research and recommendations for the various components of the Sidewalk Master Plan Update, including potential funding sources and shared streets.
PAC Agenda Item 20150601-6A – Input Themes
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=249868>
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=232333>
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=232332>
- **Construction Barriers – Findings and Recommendations**
In response to increased levels of construction the Pedestrian Advisory Council reviewed city standards for providing pedestrian access through and around construction sites.
PAC Agenda Item 20150202-7A, Submitted Recommendations
www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=226299
- **Budget in a Box – City Budget Recommendations**
Recommendation Number: 20150706-8A
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=234623>
- **Allocation of Quarter-Cent Funding Program – Recommendation**
PAC Agenda Item 20150706-6A, Submitted Recommendations
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=234748>

- Changes to Support Residential Side Yard Porches in Land Development Code
PAC Agenda Item 20150914-4, Letter to Planning Commission
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=247939>

Topics Discussed

Multiple groups, agencies, and topics were brought before the Pedestrian Advisory Council in 2015. These include:

- **Public Works:** Sidewalk Master Plan update, Sidewalk Construction, Urban Trails Program, Safe Routes to School
- **Transportation:** Active Transportation Program update, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons and Traffic Calming strategies, Eastside Walkability Study, Guadalupe Corridor Study
- **Planning and Zoning:** Vision Zero Task Force
- **Capital Metro:** Urban Rail and Downtown Station improvements, safety campaign
- Bouldin Court Subdivision
- **TxDOT:** Roundabout at I-35 and 51st Street, Mobility 35
- **UT School of Engineering:** Shared space study (see illustration below)



In a Shared street, pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers use the same space. It is designed to be safe by decreasing vehicle speeds. Shared streets exist around the world and can increase community interaction by enhancing the quality of the street space. Shared streets may be an option for areas of Austin which currently do not have sidewalks.

A Look Ahead to 2016

The Pedestrian Advisory Council is excited to continue with the numerous projects already underway as well as to begin new efforts.

Ongoing Projects

The Pedestrian Advisory Council has already contributed to numerous efforts that can appreciably enhance the pedestrian realm over time.

In 2015 the Technical Subcommittee began work on a *Pedestrian Rights and Responsibilities* flyer in order to help educate the broader public (pedestrians and drivers) on when and where pedestrians are legally allowed to cross a street. This effort will be complete in 2016.

The PAC will continue to work on large City projects:

- CodeNEXT
- Vision Zero Task Force
- Sidewalk Master Plan Update
- Complete Streets implementation

New Projects

The Pedestrian Advisory Council is excited to expand its focus in 2016. Projects in development include:

- Recommendations on capital projects at 30% design
- Safe Routes to School - focus on safety and infrastructure
- Recommendations on the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan currently being produced by the Transportation Department

Special thanks to all of the community partners, organizations and individuals participating in Pedestrian Advisory Council efforts, events and dialogue in 2015!

- AARP
- Active transportation advocates
- ADAPT
- Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas
- AURA
- Austin Independent School District
- Austin Police Department
- BAC
- Bike Austin
- Capital Metro
- Children's Optimal Health
- City Council
- Disability advocates
- Federal Highway Administration
- Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin
- Neighborhoods from across Austin
- Planning and Zoning Department
- Public Works Department
- Reconnect Austin
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Transportation Department
- Urban Design/Planning firms
- UTC
- Walk Austin
- Watershed Department